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### **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

(Economic Reform, Private Sector Development, Trade and Agriculture)



#### *Modern commercial complex rises in Cotabato*

United States Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney (left) discusses the economic benefits of the US-funded new Cotabato City Square with Cotabato City Mayor Muslimim Sema, Daniel Moore, Acting US Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director; Dr. Charles Feibel,

Program Manager of USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program and First Lady of Cotabato Sandra Sema. Built by the American people through USAID's GEM Program, the commercial facility will benefit the 31,000 residents of six adjoining urban barangays in Cotabato City by

providing an alternative commercial and shopping destination aside from the congested central business district. It is among 40 regional projects being constructed by USAID through GEM in conjunction with local government units throughout Mindanao's conflict-affected areas.

**(Source: The Manila Times, 3/12/08, expats&diplomats)**